

Minutes from the Concordia Council on Student Life Meeting  
Held on Sept. 27, 2013 SGW H-769 10 A.M.

**Present:** Mr. Andrew Woodall (Chair), Ms. Lisa Fortin (Secretary), Mr. Bradley Tucker, Mr. Patrick Boivin, Mr. Howard Magonet, Ms. Brigitte St-Laurent, Ms. Melanie Drew, Ms. Stephanie Sarik, Ms. Katrina Caruso, Ms. Crystal Harrison, Ms. Alanna Stacey, Ms. Elizabeth White, Mr. Vignesh Shankar, Ms. Claudie Boujaklian, Ms. Guylaine Beaudry, Mr. Daniel Houde, Ms. Lorraine Toscano, Mr. Brad Skog, Mr. Jacques Lachance, Ms. Sharon Hunter

**Absent with Regrets:** Ms. Lisa Ostiguy, Ms. Nadine Montour, Ms. Anna Barrafato, Mr. Brad Nelson, Mr. Justin Occhionero, Ms. Jenessa Speed, Ms. Marie-Josée Allard

**Absent:** Ms. Reenaben Patel, Ms. Aisha Malik

Meeting called to order at 10:14 A.M.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:14 A.M. The Chair noted that in the absence of quorum, the agenda could not be approved. The Council agreed to continue with discussion on the agenda items, however acknowledged that no motions could be put forth and voted on. Quorum was obtained at 10:43 A.M. Mr. Magonet moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Shankar seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Remarks from the Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the beginning of a new academic year, noting that a highlight of his job is the opportunity to work with faculty, staff and students on student life issues on both campuses.

Mr. Woodall noted that the CCSL is the highest non-academic advisory committee in University, observing that it is the only parity body of its kind at Concordia. Further noting that the focus of the CCSL is on all aspects of student life and that the authority is derived from the Board of Governors. Observing, that while the meetings are run by Robert's Rules of Order, he hoped that the spirit would be collegial, in order to create an interesting and productive space for dialogue.

The Chair asked that all motions to be brought forward be submitted to Ms. Fortin the week before so that they can be reviewed prior to the next meeting and to be properly discussed.

Mr. Woodall noted that the work of the Council for the coming year would include activities that the council routinely engages in such as the dispersal of funds for student life initiatives, but also continuing the discussion of the mandate of CCSL that was begun during the last academic year. Items of discussion would include examining how to move the Council into looking at large student life issues that are impacting and affecting

Concordia, as well as its membership composition and size. Mr. Woodall encouraged the members to bring forth issues that have an impact on student life.

The Chair congratulated the student groups on a successful and well-organised orientation. He was able to attend a number of events hosted by the student groups and was pleased to witness students engaging in student life.

Mr. Woodall noted that the management of the Student Service sector had changed from the Vice President Services to the Provosts office. He observed that the change reflects a desire from the Administration to put all student related issues and activities, both academic and student life, under one office. He highlighted the importance of Student Services and the academic side working more closely together so that students can be more successful academically, in their personal development, and in their lives after university. Mr. Woodall additionally noted that while the change might temporarily cause some confusion, it is exciting and has promise as a potential way to support students.

The Chair reported changes in the Dean of Students Office, noting that Lisa Fortin replacing Lauren Broad for the duration of her maternity leave. He also reported that Alex Oster, the Community Engagement Co-ordinator was back from parental leave but would be leaving again in November. Mr. Woodall stated that Laura Glover would be returning to assist with Alternative Spring Break during Mr. Oster's absence.

Mr. Woodall stated that everyone from the University community is welcome to attend Council meetings as guests. The Chair asked that if anyone was interested in sharing issues on student life or has a suggestion for an interesting speaker to please notify Ms. Fortin ahead of time so that the item can be added to the agenda.

The Chair invited the members of the Council to introduce themselves, while noting members who were absent. Mr. Woodall pointed out that the Council was still looking for two undergraduate student representatives, one faculty representative, and one student from the Centre for Continuing Education. If a student from Continuing Education could not be found, the CSU would be asked to appoint another undergraduate representative to the council.

### **3. Approval of Minutes fro Meeting of May 3, 2013**

Ms. Drew moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 3, 2013. Ms. Sarik seconded the motion.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes of May 3, 2013**

Mr. Tucker observed that the University participates annually in National Survey of Student Engagement, an Undergraduate engagement tool used by over 600 universities in North America and around the world. He noted that Concordia participated in 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, and will be again in 2014. Mr. Tucker also informed the Council that the University participates in the Canadian Graduate Professional Student Survey on a three-year cycle and that it would be beneficial for the committee to be aware of the results from last year. Mr. Tucker proposed that the committee ask for presentations on



the results from the two surveys. Mr. Woodall stated he would follow up with the Institutional Planning Office.

Following up on business from the previous meeting regarding the Conférence des recteurs et principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ), Ms. Beaudry stated that the University Library Directors were looking into scenarios to continue the exchanges in a "Post-CREPUQ" era. Ms. Beaudry emphasised that services to students, such as Inter-library Loans (ILL) and the CREPUQ card, would not be affected for this academic year. Ms. Beaudry explained that they were in the process of analysing four scenarios which will be proposed to the University presidents. She noted that in other provinces in Canada it is normally a not-for-profit organisation that manages the co-ordination of library services.

As per the press release from CREPUQ, Ms. St-Laurent observed that the Services des étudiants sub-committee would be abolished. As the chair of the committee, she noted that there was a great deal of discussion over the issue and that Student Service Directors at all institutions are committed to finding a way to continue to share information. Ms. St-Laurent stated that she would be attending a meeting in Sherbrooke the following week to look at scenarios.

Ms. St-Laurent emphasised that they were looking for a solution and observed that the Universities need to have a voice at the Ministry of Education in order to inform them on any proposed changes affecting students, such as international students.

## **5. Reports and items of information**

### **5.1 Sub-committees**

#### **CCSL Special Projects**

Mr. Woodall explained that the Special Projects committee has approximately \$140,000 in funds to disperse on projects for Student life initiatives. He noted that there are two deadlines a year for the Special Project applications, one in October and one in February. The membership of the committee consists of a student service director, four undergraduate students (two executives), two graduate students, one student from the School of Extended Learning (SEL) and the Assistant to the Dean of Students. Mr. Woodall noted that if the committee is unable to get a representative from SEL then another undergraduate student would be appointed. The Chair observed that the sub-committee might review the membership of the committee this academic year. Mr. Woodall asked that anyone interested in participating please contact Ms. Fortin as soon as possible as the deadline for applications was fast approaching.

The Chair explained that the sub-committee will be reviewing all applications and making recommendations for funding to the Council for those \$5,000 and over. Additionally noting that those requesting \$5,000 and over would be required to do a short presentation at the next meeting on October 25, 2013.

Mr. Woodall indicated that he neglected to mention earlier that the Council consists of voting and non-voting members. However, emphasising that all members should contribute and that feedback is welcome.

Ms. Caruso inquired as to who the voting members on the Council are, with Mr. Woodall responding-the students, the Student Services Directors and the academic representatives.

### **CCSL Awards**

Mr. Magonet, the Chair of the sub-committee, related that the CCSL awards committee is responsible for giving out awards to students, staff, and faculty that have made a significant and exceptional contribution to student life. He noted that the sub-committee is comprised of three undergraduate students, one graduate student, one student service staff member from CCSL, and one faculty member from CCSL. The call for nominations will be in January and the sub-committee will meet once in February to review the nominations and select the winners. The awards ceremony will be held in April and is a rewarding experience. Mr. Magonet asked that those interested in joining the committee contact the Dean of Students Office.

Ms. Caruso inquired if the members of the committee must be from CCSL or if they could be from the student community at large. The CCSL Mandate section 5-Committees of the Council states that "[m]embership of the committees shall not be limited to members of the Council."

Mr. Shankar asked if the awards are only for members of CCSL or are they for the Concordia students. Ms. Drew responded that the awards are from the entire Concordia community.

### **Housing and Job Bank (HoJo)**

Ms. St-Laurent reported that Ms. Leanne Ashworth, the co-ordinator of HoJo, would present the year-end statement and the annual report at the next Council meeting in on October 25, 2013. She noted that the Housing and Job Bank works closely with the International Students Office and highlighted the importance of the service. Ms. St-Laurent observed that while there has never been a student on the sub-committee, she would be very happy to have one this year. Mr. Woodall explained that the presentation of the financial report from HoJo is required as CCSL gives them \$20, 000 annually.

## **6. New Business**

Ms. White informed the Council each year the Sociology and Anthropology Graduate Students Association (**SAGSA**) organises an interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference. She asked if CCSL was aware of the conference and if so, inquired about the level of participation, as it is an important example of building community and contributing to student life academically. Mr. Woodall stated that CCSL has supported the conference in the past and hoped that they would apply again for funding. Building on this, the Chair observed that it would be beneficial to the University community for the Council to think of ways to spread the word regarding activities that are of interest to the community.

Mr. Magonet announced that the official launch of the new Sexual Assault Resource Centre would be soon. In response, Ms. Hunter noted that the announcement was under embargo until it was officially released.



Mr. Woodall informed the Council that Campus Compass (the Dean of Students student leadership capacity building initiative), will be having a fundraising workshop on October 1, 2013. The Chair noted that the workshop would be helpful for applicants for CCSL. He also observed that students could inquire about the Concordia University Small Grants Program (**CUSGP**) for funding.

Mr. Skog noted that Homecoming was the following week and that while most activities were aimed at Alumni, the **Resolute Forest Products** lecture with Maziar Bahari on October 4, 2013, was of particular interest.

Mr. Tucker announced that the Volunteer Fair would be on October 10, 2013 in the atrium of the LB building. He noted that Student Services would be represented, along with many other volunteer organisations. Mr. Tucker observed that there would be many volunteer opportunities for students that may also be eligible for inclusion in the Co-curricular Record.

Mr. Woodall mentioned the Food Services survey and asked the Council to look at it and spread the word. Adding that the prize was an i-Pad and that his office would send out the link to the survey. The Chair observed that the survey was important, as it is an issue that affects everyone on campus. Ms. Drew noted that the Discussion Session on Food Services would be on October 1, 2013 in H-767 at 1:30 P.M.

Mr. Tucker announced that the Stingers would be playing the Redmen on September 26, 2013 at Concordia. Mr. Boivin stated that it was the Shrine Bowl, a fundraiser for the Shriners Hospital, and that 1000 to 1200 tickets had been sold.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2013 in L-AD-210 at 10 A.M.

#### **8. Termination of Meeting**

The meeting was terminated at 10:50 A.M. with no mover or seconder.